

CTNAELA – Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB6397 – An Act Concerning “Retroactive Medicaid for Home Care Patients”

Sen. Flexer, Rep. Serra, Sen. Kelly, Rep. Bolinsky and respected members of the Aging Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony in strong support of HB 6397 – “An Act Concerning “Retroactive Medicaid for Home Care Patients”

Simply put, the language in this bill will provide, *in accordance with federal regulations*, retroactive assistance to participants in the Connecticut Home Care program for Elders (CHCPE) for up to three months before the date of application.

Please consider this example as outlined:

Margaret is eligible for CHCPE, submits her application and is accepted into the program. Despite being eligible for the program up to three months before the application, Margaret under current state law and regulations is not eligible to receive retroactive payments.

If this bill is passed, Margaret would have received retroactive payments for eligibility thus creating an additional incentive for those who wish to apply for home care.

However, in order to receive the retroactive assistance, the Medicaid Home Care applicant must have resources of \$1,600.00 or less in each of the retroactive months. If the applicant has \$20,000 in January, spends down to \$1,600.00 or less in assets in February, and applies in April, retroactive Medicaid payments can only be made for two months, February and March.

Also, the recipients of the three month retroactive payments are those applicants who did not make substantial gifts in the 5 year period before the Medicaid Home Care Application is filed. With retroactive payments, approved state qualified home care agencies can deliver necessary care while the Medicaid application is pending. This will reduce nursing home admissions which are more costly to the state than the Medicaid Home Care Waiver Program.

On behalf of CTNAELA we are grateful that you consider this testimony and hope you support passage of this bill!